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Sixty-ninth session
Item 118 of the preliminary list*
Follow-up to the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade

Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade: status of the United Nations Trust Fund for Partnerships — Permanent Memorial

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 12 of its resolution 68/7, the General Assembly requested the United Nations Office for Partnerships, through the Secretary-General, to submit a comprehensive report to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the status of the United Nations Trust Fund for Partnerships — Permanent Memorial, established with a view to implementing the initiative to erect a permanent memorial in honour of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

II. Status of the Trust Fund

3. As at 31 May 2014, a total of $1,448,065 had been recorded as income received from contributions and interest under the United Nations Trust Fund for Partnerships — Permanent Memorial, which includes voluntary contributions from Member States amounting to $1,288,519 and public and private donations totalling $108,612. The breakdown of the contributions received is provided in the annex to the present report. With regard to expenditure, an amount of $402,429 had been utilized, primarily towards the international design competition (see below), the cash prize for the winning artist and initial construction fees. The Fund had an unspent balance of $1,074,085.

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4. In keeping with the intention of the General Assembly, as expressed in its resolutions 64/15 and 65/239, the Committee of interested States established to oversee the permanent memorial project (Permanent Memorial Committee), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Office for Partnerships signed a tripartite memorandum of understanding to conduct an international competition to select a design for the permanent memorial. The goal of the competition was to identify an outstanding artistic complement to the iconic landscape of United Nations Headquarters that would deepen, both visually and spiritually, the experience of visitors.

5. After receiving 310 entries from across the world, UNESCO shortlisted 16 entries to be evaluated in the second phase of the competition. A panel of five internationally acclaimed professionals with diverse backgrounds (an architect, a curator, a cultural adviser, an academic and an educator specialized in art) then selected seven finalists. The judges met in New York in August 2013 to evaluate the proposals. Following their deliberations, the judges selected *Ark of Return*, by Rodney Leon, as the winning design.

6. The winning design was unveiled by the Secretary-General at a ceremony at United Nations Headquarters on 23 September 2013. Speakers at the event included the President of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, John W. Ashe; the Prime Minister of Jamaica, Portia Simpson Miller; the Director General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova; and the Chair of the Permanent Memorial Committee, Courtenay Rattray.

7. In February 2014, the Permanent Memorial Committee entered into an agreement with the winning architect to provide design services in order to establish a framework for the final scope of the construction and erection of the memorial. The Committee is working towards completing the erection of the memorial in the first quarter of 2015.

Annex

United Nations Trust Fund for Partnerships — Permanent Memorial: contributions received as at 31 May 2014

(United States dollars)

Donor	*Amount*
Afghanistan	1 000
Antigua and Barbuda	7 500
Argentina	10 000
Australia	150 000
Azerbaijan	25 000
Bahamas	7 500
Barbados	10 000
Belgium	6 267
Belize	2 000
Bhutan	1 000
Botswana	10 000
Brazil	20 000
Burkina Faso	533
Canada	19 342
Chile	5 000
China	20 000
Congo	9 831
Costa Rica	5 000
Denmark	10 000
Ecuador	5 000
Egypt	5 000
Finland	75 000
Georgia	5 000
Greece	1 278
Grenada	5 000
Guyana	5 000
Haiti	15 000
Honduras	2 000
Iceland	1 000
India	260 000
Indonesia	500
Ireland	10 000
Israel	20 000
Jamaica	7 500
Kuwait	20 000
Libya	20 000
Lithuania	2 000

Donor	*Amount*
Luxembourg	55 021
Malaysia	10 000
Malta	500
Mauritius	5 000
Monaco	6 564
Mozambique (Southern African Development Community Group of Ambassadors)	2 500
Namibia	2 000
Netherlands	34 588
New Zealand	40 000
Nicaragua	500
Oman	9 979
Pakistan	25 000
Portugal	32 782
Qatar	20 000
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1 000
Saint Lucia	600
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	5 000
Saudi Arabia	10 000
Slovenia	11 818
South Africa	101 051
Spain	44 615
Sri Lanka	500
Sudan	1 000
Suriname	10 000
Sweden	10 000
Syrian Arab Republic	1 000
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	500
Togo	175
Trinidad and Tobago	10 000
Turkey	23 500
United Arab Emirates	5 000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	29 076
Subtotal, Member State donations	**1 288 519**
Ford Foundation	75 000
Private donors	33 612
Subtotal, public/private donations	**108 612**
Interest income	50 934
Other miscellaneous income[a]	28 449
Total	**1 476 514**

[a] Cancelled prior period obligation and related programme support cost.